



Week beginning 10th May 2020
5th Sunday of Easter



COVID-19, there will be no Christian Aid envelopes and collections this year but if you would like to make a donation, please follow the link below or visit the Christian Aid website.

https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/?utm_source=christianaid&utm_medium=email&utm_content=txt-header-CAWEnvelope&utm_campaign=20200427-CA-CAW-Org-4

Reflection from Revd Rachel

There are lots of references to houses and buildings in this Sunday's readings. Many of us are feeling exiled from our church buildings and seven weeks in, we're feeling the strain. The lockdown has been partially lifted on church buildings but only under very strict conditions and not for public worship. In the reading from 1 Peter 2, Peter talks about us as living stones. He says, '...let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.' In the gospel reading, Jesus reassures his disciples that in his father's house there are many dwelling-places. ...I go to prepare a place for you.'

Our sense of place and our identification with our church, both the community and the building are important to us and we are separated from both of those things at the moment. But what is so comforting about these two readings is the idea that we can worship wherever we find ourselves and whoever we are with. Jesus tells his disciples that he is the way, the truth and the life.

We commemorated the end of the War in Europe seventy-five years ago on Friday. There was footage of people crowding the Mall and the royal family and Winston Churchill waving from the balcony of Buckingham Palace to the people below. My mum and dad remember bonfires being lit and people getting drunk. A real outpouring of relief and exuberance. Some of us may have imagined that the lifting of the current lockdown and rules about social distancing will happen all in one go like the end of the War but I suspect that it will be piecemeal, little by little. Some of us will be able to worship in church but there will be restrictions in place still to protect the most vulnerable. Our return to church will be gradual.

So in the meantime, what do we do? We have to rely on our imaginations a bit more during this time. Jesus is our place of worship. We come to him to worship because he tells his disciples and us, '...where I am, there you may be also.' We can all be together in prayer in the virtual world of our imaginations. The words of the collect are said every day by me at morning and evening prayer. If you pray that collect too, then we are together in prayer. It's printed in the bulletin every week.

Our building is a bit special. It is a Holy place but for the time being, we pray together apart, we trust that God is not restricted to time and place and by the power of the Holy Spirit and our own imaginations, we don't have to be either. In 1 Corinthians 6: 19, Paul reminds us that our very own bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, we struggle to be a church when we're not in community with each other. Christianity is not a solitary practice. But until we are able to enjoy each other's company again in the flesh, we'll remember each other in spirit and worship together in the infinity of God and the limitlessness of Jesus' promise to us.

Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever

Post Communion

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Response to the Psalm:

Let your face shine on your servants and we shall be saved.

Readings for today	Readings for next Sunday
Acts 7: 55 – 60	Acts 17: 22 – 31
Psalm 31: 1 – 5, 15 – 16	Psalm 66: 7 – 18
1 Peter 2: 2 – 10	1 Peter 3: 13 – 22
John 14: 1 – 14	John 14: 15 – 21

A copy of the information sent to 1000 homes, delivered by sixth-form students from Lincoln Castle Academy.

Members of Lincoln, St John the Baptist Parish Church are working together to help the residents of the Ermine Estate through this difficult time.

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 (corona virus) and need help with shopping, urgent supplies or just want to chat, please call us on 07954 035865. To contact the vicar, Revd Rachel Heskins directly call 07813 617977.



If you are a resident who is happy to be added to the list of volunteers who are willing to help, please call either of these numbers and let us know.

This is a FREE service so please don't hesitate to call us if you need to.

You can also follow us on Facebook  St John the Baptist Church Ermine

There will be no public worship at St John the Baptist Church until further notice. Daily offices are being said at the Vicarage at 9 am and 5 pm and a weekly Eucharist is being said on Sundays. If you are accessing this newsletter online and you know of a neighbour who might like to see it, please print off a copy and pop it through their letter box.

You can join in prayer wherever you are by downloading the Church of England free app 'Daily Prayer'. <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps>

For the latest updates on COVID-19 visit <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

PRAYER THIS WEEK

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
5 th Sunday of Easter	United Reformed Church The elders and people of the church Residents of: Stapleford Avenue, Steeping Court, Sturton Close, Sudbrooke Drive	Christian Aid Week begins. From the Christian Aid Website: As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response. You've already shown incredible kindness to your neighbours. Now is the time to reach out to your neighbours both near and far. <i>Pray for the Anglican Church of Kenya</i> <i>The Most Revd Jackson Ole Sapit - Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya</i>
Monday 11 th	The Estate Managers and council workers; postal workers Residents of: Swaby Close, Tangshan Court, Tetney Close, Thoresway Drive	The licensing of The Revd Georgina Holding to the benefice of Market Deeping. The Diocesan Communications Team <i>Muranga South (Kenya) The Rt Revd Julius Karanu Wa Gicheru;</i> <i>Zaki-Biam (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Jezreel Vandeh;</i> <i>Ikwerre (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Blessing Enyindah</i>
Tuesday 12 th Gregory Dix, Priest, monk, scholar, 1952	Lincoln North Children's Centre; the Women's refuge Residents of: Thurlby Crescent, Torrington Road, Trelawney Crescent, Troutbeck Close	The Haven Group - Bicker, Donington, Sutterton, Swineshead, Wigtoft: Revd Charlie Robertson <i>Muyinga (Burundi) The Rt Revd Paisible Ndacayisaba; Zanzibar (Tanzania) The Rt Revd Michael Hafidh; Ikwo (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Kenneth Ifemene</i>
Wednesday 13 th	Readers, sidespersons, chalice assistants and intercessors Residents of: Waddingworth Grove, Welbourne Gardens, Welland Road, Welton Gardens	Bishop's Staff Meeting. Kirton in Holland with Algakirk and Fosdyke – In Vacancy (Interim Minister Revd. Sue Rose) Please pray for the Congregations as they cope with the vacancy in the context of the Coronavirus lockdown <i>Zaria (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Abiodun Ogunyemi Saliu Bello</i>

Thursday 14 th Matthias the Apostle	Mothers' Union; our website Sue Fleshbourne and the members of our branch; Danny Holt Residents of: Wellingore Road, Wickenby Crescent, Willingham Avenue, Winster Close	Old Leake w Wrangle w Friskney – Revd Fiona Cotton Betteridge Please pray for Friskney, Wrangle & Old Leake as they adjust to new leadership and for Reverend Fiona as she leaves for a new ministry. <i>Mytikyina (Myanmar) The Rt Revd John Zau Li;</i> <i>Zonkwa (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Jacob Kwashi;</i> <i>Zululand (Southern Africa) Vacant</i>
Friday 15 th	Shops and businesses on the estate Residents of: Woodburn Close, Woodburn View, Woodhall Drive	Skirbeck, Holy Trinity – Revd Lis Ward Pray for the church family that we will continue to love and support others and to share the Good News of Jesus in new ways. <i>Nagpur (North India) The Rt Revd Paul Dupare; Aba (Nigeria) Vacant</i>
Saturday 16 th Caroline Chisholm, Social reformer, 1877	The library, Sudbrooke Drive Community Centre, and the Ravendale Drive sports field Library staff, centre managers and users, sports field users and managers Members of our congregation who live outside the parish	Skirbeck St Nicholas – Fr John Underhill <i>Nairobi (Kenya) The Rt Revd Joel Waweru Mwangi;</i> <i>Aba Ngwa North (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Nathan Kanu;</i> <i>Ikwuano (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Chigozirim Onyegbule</i>

The Diocesan Prayer Calendar can be downloaded from the website:
<https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/sharing-in-prayer>

Give thanks for:	The work of Christian Aid and the thousands of volunteers and donors who support it.
Special prayers this week for:	Charities struggling to make ends meet due to the loss of income as a consequence of the lockdown.
People in need:	Clive Seabury, Dave Notman,
Rest in peace:	David Redrob, Linda Liversage, Revd Michael Shrewsbury

Coming up this week:

Sunday 3 rd	10:00am	Parish Eucharist IN THE VICARAGE
Monday 4 th	9.00am	Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Tuesday 5 th	9.00 am	Morning Prayer

	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday 6 th	9.00 am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer
Thursday 7 th	9.00am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer

Revd Rachel can be contacted Saturday – Thursday
on 07813 617977

e-mail: revd-rachel@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk

Web site: www.stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk

Any items for this weekly sheet should be received by Revd Rachel
no later than Wednesday evening.

If you would like to receive this weekly sheet by email, please e-mail
revd-rachel@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk or speak to a churchwarden